[18th August 1956

Sri V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : This kind of allegation has been made about various other things also. May I, in the interests of concord and fraternal feelings between the Tamilians and the Malayalees, request the Government to issue an extensive statement explaining the correct position so that the atmosphere may not be vitiated by noxious whims?

The Hon. Sri M. BHAKTAVATSALAM : I do not think any statement is necessary. I also don't believe that any statement could convince those who put this kind of absolutely baseless questions.

Madras State Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union, Tiruchirappalli

* 139-F Q.—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Dr. G. Chitrambalam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received a copy of the Memorandum of demands submitted by the Madras State Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union, Tiruchirappalli, on 9th May 1956 ; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken thereon?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The remarks of the Chief Engineer (Highways) have been called for.

* 139-G Q.—Sri S. RAMALINGAM (on behalf of Dr. G. Chitrambalam) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any deputation representing the Madras State Highways and Transport workers met the Hon. Minister for Public Works on 2nd February 1956 ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that the Hon. Minister gave an assurance to the deputation, that the wages and service conditions of the workers would be improved; and

(*c*) if so, how far these assurances have been carried out?

The Hon. Sri R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI : (*a*) The Tiruchirappalli District Highways Mechanical and Transport Workers' Union representatives met the Minister for Works on 2nd February 1956.

(*b*) No such assurances was given, but the representatives were informed that the question would be examined in consultation with the Chief Engineer (Highways).

(*c*) Does not arise in view of the answers above.